[30th March 1954

to maintain itself, if the north-east monsoon is normal. The site is also not important and the lands affected are Government lands.

" (c) Does not arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Have Government taken or going to take any preventive measures to check further soil erosion? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, Government decided not to take any preventive measures. The preventive measures if taken for constructing a permanent revetment to check soil erosion would cost the Government Rs. 1,80,000. The Government did not consider this very important. For the two years in which the huts were destroyed due to soil erosion, fishermen were paid Rs. 100 in 1952 and Rs. 135 in 1953 out of the State funds for them and their families."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether this subject of checking soil erosion concerns the Central Government, Provincial Government or local bodies or municipalities? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It may be the duty of the State Government as well as the Central Government, Sir. We could get something out of the Central funds also."

Transfer of tractors to the Bellary district on the eve of the formation of the Andhra State.

* 482 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of tractors that were transferred to Bellary district on the eve of the separation of Andhra State; and

(b) at what places they were stationed at the time and the reasons why they were in those places then?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Apparently the hon. Member refers to the tractors moved to Bellary district from other districts in the then Composite State of Madras during 1953 in connexion with the Pilot Reclamation Scheme in the Kampli area. Fifteen tractors were temporarily diverted to Bellary district.

" (b) The units were stationed at Kampli and were used for the mechanized reclamation of a compact block of 6,000 acres in the Kampli area in the ayacut of the Tungabadhra Project."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know the steps taken to get back these tractors from the Andhra to this State? May I know whether it could be done only with the influence of Sri Trivedi? "

30th March 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I feel that one tractor that was taken from Coimbatore has been got back. Certain other tractors taken from North Arcot district were not returned. We are looking into the question of equitable distribution of these tractors between the Madras State and Andhra State. We are taking necessary steps."

Forest Range Advisory Committees.

* 483 *Q.*—SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 10-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have constituted District as well as Taluk Forest Advisory Committees; and

(*b*) if so, what their functions are?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Only Forest Range Advisory Committees have been sanctioned, to be constituted at one for each range.

" (*b*) The functions of the Committee are purely to serve as a liaison body between the forest utilizing public and the departmental offices and to bring to their notice the needs of the ryots regarding agricultural implements, fencing materials firewood, etc. They have no administrative functions."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" In view of the forest development programme which each district is having, is it not possible for Government to constitute such committees and make them function as early as possible so that they may advise the administration on proper lines? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that the Government have taken a decision to constitute Forest Range Advisory Committees. If anywhere such committees have not been constituted, we will see that they are constituted early."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In furtherance of the object of this Committee, will they ban the felling of trees for charcoal? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Felling of trees for charcoal is a different matter. That is not one of the primary objects of the constitution of the Advisory Committees."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" On what basis are the members of these committees selected? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Committee is to consist of five non-official members to be nominated by the Collector in consultation with the District Forest Officer. The period of membership will be for two years."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Does the committee have official members also and, if the answer is in the affirmative, may I know who they are? "